

CONFIDENTIAL SECURITY INFORMATION

Serial: 0819

22 Dec 52

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Mr. John C. McPherson
Vice President
International Business Machines Corporation
590 Madison Avenue
New York 22, New York

Dear Mr. McPherson:

There is inclosed for your information a copy of a document dealing with the mission and functions of our new Advisory Board, which replaces the former body called the Special Cryptologic Advisory Group (SCAG).

The new Board will be quite limited in its membership. In fact, I expect its number not to exceed ten, all to be top-level experts. There will also be panels to assist the Board, so that the various areas in our field of interest may be adequately covered. One of the items for the agenda for the initial meeting of the Board, tentatively scheduled to be held on or about 26 January 1953, deals with the matter of determining the number and composition of these panels. As to the composition of the Board itself, at the moment I can say that I have extended invitations to Prof. H. P. Robertson, and to Prof. S. S. Wilks, of Princeton. There will also be a member representing the Research and Development Board, who temporarily will be Mr. Edwin A. Speakman. In addition I plan to have as members of the Board one or two specialists in the general field of wire, cable, and radio communication engineering, a specialist in the electronics field, and one in the field of high-speed analytical machinery.

We would very much like to have you as the member representing the last-mentioned field. In respect to that field, your participation in the deliberations and work of SCAG greatly contributed to the effectiveness of the Group. Your Company has been good enough to make you available for the membership on a Research and Development Board panel of which you are Chairman, and you have been gracious enough to accept this important duty in our behalf. To ask you now, in addition, to serve on the Advisory Board may be going beyond the bounds of what can be expected of a man so busy as you are in Company matters. Nevertheless, we feel that we must have you on the Board and I hereby extend to you my urgent invitation to become a member of the Board, under the Chairmanship of Prof. S. S. Cairns, whom you will no doubt remember.

In giving consideration to my invitation I will ask that you accept my assurance that you will not be called upon frequently to attend formal meetings of the Board. In fact, Prof. Cairns shares my earnest desire

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to limit the number of such meetings to two or three a year. We expect to place more emphasis upon individual consultation, and this will mean that Board members will place themselves at our disposal only for such consultation as their own time and convenience affords.

I hope to receive your acceptance of my invitation to become a member of our new Board and am looking forward to seeing you again on or about 26 January.

Sincerely,

RALPH J. CANINE
Major General, US Army
Director

Incl:

AFSA Reg. 20-10,
dtd 21 Aug 52.

CC: AG
C/S
CONS

M/R: This an invitation to Mr. McPherson to be a member of NSASAB.

W.F.Friedman/6049 3/17 Dec 52

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